



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 1  
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BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02114-2023

July 1, 2003

Honorable James Douglas  
State of Vermont  
109 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05605-0101

OFFICE OF THE  
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Governor Douglas:

Thank you for your letter of May 7, 2003 forwarding Vermont's recommendations on air quality designations for the national health based standard for ground-level ozone, a major constituent of smog. As you know, breathing ozone and fine particles can cause serious respiratory and cardiovascular effects. Many health studies have correlated increased exposure to fine particles with increases in premature death. In 1997, EPA revised its national ambient air quality standards for these two pollutants. After prevailing in a lengthy court battle, we are now working with States to take the steps necessary to protect the public from these pollutants. Your letter is an important step toward providing citizens in your state with critical information about air pollution levels in their community.

We intend to carefully review the recommendations and work with your Department of Environmental Conservation as necessary in determining final designations. The EPA must make its final official designations decisions for ozone by April 15, 2004. For the fine particle standards, States are to make these recommendations by February 2004, and the Agency will make its final decisions by December 15, 2004.

We look forward to working with Vermont in the coming months on designations. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me or David Conroy, Manager of the Air Quality Planning Unit at (617) 918-1661.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Varney  
Regional Administrator

cc: Richard Valentini, DEC

OPTIONAL FORM 98 (7-90)

**FAX TRANSMITTAL**

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